

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 02630 142042Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----142046Z 038250 /64
R 141957Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0639

S E C R E T LONDON 2630

NODIS

DEPARTMENT FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFEL; ALSO PASS
CAPETOWN AND USUN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH
SUBJ: UK AND SOUTH AFRICAN INITIATIVE

1. TONY DUFF TOLD ME FEBRUARY 14 THAT HMG IS NOT NOW
PREPARED TO TAKE UP THE SOUTH AFRICAN SUGGESTION FOR
TRILATERAL TALKS ON RHODESIA. HE SAID MINISTERS
HERE ARE EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS THAN FCO OFFICIALS ABOUT
THE LATEST APPROACH FROM PRETORIA. THE BRITISH
ARE LEERY ABOUT WHAT THEY MIGHT BE DRAGGED INTO AND
CONCERNED THAT EVEN EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH THE SOUTH
AFRICANS MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE NATIONALISTS. THE
BRITISH ARE THEREFORE NOT PREPARED TO COME TO WASHINGTON
THIS WEEK.

2. DUFF PROPOSED THAT WE GO AHEAD WITH BILATERAL CONSUL-
TATIONS IN WASHINGTON THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21 BY
WHICH TIME HE EXPECTS HE WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT
HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. HE POINTED OUT
THAT DECISIONS HERE HAVE ALSO BEEN COMPLICATED BY
CROSLAND'S SUDDEN AND APPARENTLY SERIOUS ILLNESS, AND
BY TED ROWLANDS ABSENCE IN LATIN AMERICA.

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3. DUFF SAID AMBASSADOR SCOTT WOULD SHORTLY BE INSTRUCTED
TO SEE FOURIE AND TELL HIM THAT WHILE THE SOUTH AFRICAN
INITIATIVE IS "INTERESTING," THE BRITISH ARE NOT ABLE
TO RESPOND FOR THE TIME BEING. SCOTT WILL ALSO TELL FOURIE
THAT THE NEWS LEAKS FROM CAPETOWN ARE UNHELPFUL AND MAKE
A POSITIVE BRITISH RESPONSE MORE DIFFICULT.

4. DUFF AGREED THAT WE SHOULD FIRST PIN DOWN EXACTLY WHAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN EXPECT TO ACHIEVE IN A TRILATERAL MEETING. HE ALSO AGREES THAT THE HASTE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN APPROACH AND THE INTENTIONAL LEAKS TO THE PRESS INDICATE THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE SEEKING AN EARLY DEFINITION OF RELATIONS WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF US/UK MEETING WITH BOTHA WHEN BRITISH IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK BUT WOULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT YET.

5. I SUGGESTED AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN ALSO BE INSTRUCTED TO POINT OUT TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT LEAKS TO THE PRESS WILL NOT HELP THEIR PROPOSALS TO GET OFF THE GROUND.

6. BRITISH WILL WISH TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH US NEXT WEEK. I TOLD THEM WE HAD NO OBJECTION.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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